GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3660
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2000
POWERS TO PANCHAYATS
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments are yet to transfer funds and powers to the Panchayati Raj Institutions as mandated by 73rd Amendments of the Constitution;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against the defaulter States?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT [SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU]

(a) to (c) Devolution of powers upon Panchayats is a continuing process. While some States have devolved considerable powers and functions upon Panchayats, other States/UTs have yet to do so. The Central Government have been advising the State Governments/UT Administrations to devolve more powers to Panchayats in Review Meetings and Discussions and through correspondence with the State authorities.
2. According to the revised Guidelines for the Employment Assurance Scheme(EAS),even as 80% of the EAS funds are released to the implementing agencies (as per normal procedure), the remaining 20% are to be released as an incentive if the State concerned has put in place elected and empowered Panchayati Raj Institutions.

3. The States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar and Pondicherry have, for various reasons, not so far held Panchayat elections after the commencement of the Constitution 73rd Amendment Act, 1992.